

1 68. A method according to claim 52 wherein the guide wire has sufficient flexibility in a
2 direction of a disc place to be compliant with an inner wall of the annulus of the disc.

1 69. A method according to claim 52 wherein the distal portion of the guide wire is
2 tapered to a smaller diameter toward the distal end.

1 70. A method according to claim 52 wherein at least a portion of the guide wire is
2 actively steerable.

1 71. A method according to claim 52 wherein at least a portion of guide wire is
2 radiographically visible.

1 72. A method according to claim 52 wherein the distal portion of the guide wire has one
2 or more flat sides.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of this application on the merits. Since the present amendment does not introduce new matter, Applicants respectfully request its entry prior to examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 18, 2001

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